CLAIMS

1. A dental implant having a head portion, a neck portion, and a threaded portion for contact with bone wherein said head and neck portions are provided with a smooth surface for blocking infection and said threaded portion is roughened to promote osseointegration with bone while leaving at least one thread adjacent said neck portion smooth and unroughened.

2. A dental implant of claim 1 wherein up to three threads adjacent said neck portion are left smooth.

3 A dental implant of claim 1 wherein a length of about 3 mm of said implant including said head, neck, and adjacent threaded portions is left smooth.

4. A dental implant of claim 1 wherein the head, neck, and threaded portions left smooth have a surface created by machining.

5. A dental implant of claim 1 wherein said implant is titanium or a titanium alloy and said roughness is created by a two-stop process in which the native oxide is removed by contact with an aqueous hydrofluoric acid solution and followed by etching of the resulting surface with a mixture of sulfuric and hydrochloric acids.

6. A dental implant comprising

(a) a roughened bottom portion for facilitating osseointegration with bone;

(b) a smooth neck portion adjacent said roughened portion for contact with gingival tissue; and

(c) a smooth head portion adjacent said neck portion for receiving a dental restoration; wherein said roughened portion of (a) is threaded and at least one thread adjacent said neck portion is left smooth and unroughened.

7. A dental implant of claim 6 wherein up to three threads adjacent said neck portion are left smooth and unroughened.

8. A dental implant of claim 6 wherein the length of said head, neck, and smooth threads is a total of about 3 mm.

9. A dental implant of claim 6 wherein the head, neck, and threaded portions left smooth have a surface created by machining.

10. A dental implant of claim 6 ~~wherein~~ said implant is titanium or titanium alloy and said roughness is created by a two-step process in which the native oxide is removed by contact with aqueous hydrofluoric acid solution and followed by etching of the resulting surface with a mixture of sulfuric and hydrochloric acids.

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